

Please forward assigned FOIA request to your Division Director so they can determine if request should be assigned to RA for responsive records. (This includes 6RA, 6RA-D and 6RA-DA.)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST
06-FOI-00146-12

REQUEST DATE: December 05, 2011

REQUEST RECEIVED: December 29, 2011

REQUESTOR INFORMATION:

Machelle Lee Hall
Tulane Environmental Law Clinic
6329 Freret Street,
New Orleans, LA 70118

Email: Work Phone#504-862-8814
Fax: 504-862-8721

FEE CATEGORY: Other

*****SUBJECT*****

Transfer from HQ to R6 FEE WAIVER

Requesting information relating to Taylor Energy Company LLC's Decommissioning Work in Mississippi Canyon Block 20 in the Gulf of Mexico.

*****ASSIGNED OFFICE(s)*****

.6EN
6PD
6SF
6WQ

DUE DATE: January 30, 2012

*****SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO DIVISIONS*****

1. Always note Fee commitment by requester: \$ 25.
2. Call the requester with a fee estimate, if cost is expected to exceed amount committed \$ 25
3. Each Division must obtain Division Director or delegate concurrence on denial log before routing to ARA signature.
4. Send a copy of the response and cost information sheet to the FOIA Office (6MD-OE).

*****DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE, FOR FOIA OFFICE USE ONLY*****

		BILLABLE COST	Pages	Other	TOTAL
6EN	\$4.00	\$7.00	\$10.25		
6PD					

RECEIVED

DEC 29, 2011

EPA REGION VI
Freedom of Information Officer

RCVD EPA REGION 4

2011 DEC -9 P 2:39

Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION OFFICE
December 5, 2011



Via certified mail and e-mail (hq.foia.epa.gov)
National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)
Washington, DC 20460

Control Number	4-FOI- 00/60-12
Response Due Date:	11/2/12
Fee Category:	Other
Assigned to:	POC: GA SESD OEA CC Other PB
Special Instructions:	Fee Waiver

Re: **Freedom of Information Act Request for Taylor Energy Company LLC's
Decommissioning Work in Mississippi Canyon Block 20 in the Gulf of Mexico,
Lease Number OCS-G 04953**

Dear Sir or Madame:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, on behalf of Apalachicola Riverkeeper, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, Emerald Coastkeeper, Galveston Baykeeper, Louisiana Bayoukeeper, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Paul Orr (in his capacity as the Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper), and Waterkeeper Alliance respectfully requests access to all documents or other materials relating to the following topic: Taylor Energy Company LLC's ("Taylor") decommissioning efforts in Mississippi Canyon Block 20, lease number OCS-G 04953 ("MC 20"). This request only covers documents produced after September 15, 2004. This request treats Taylor Energy Company and Taylor Energy Company LLC as the same entity, because they merged in January of 2006, and any search for records should do the same.

Specifically, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic requests access to any documents relating to the decommissioning of MC 20 including but not limited to:

1. Any documents relating to the specific wells required to be plugged or abandoned.
2. Any documents relating to the scope or duration of the decommissioning efforts.
3. Any documents relating to analysis of the probability of success of any decommissioning efforts.
4. Any permits, permit requests, permit modifications, permit modification requests, or any other authorization, request for authorization, or similar documents related to MC 20.
5. Any documents submitted by Taylor or any other person or entity in support or opposition to any permit related documents requested in part 4.

Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

6329 Freret St., Ste. 130, New Orleans, LA 70118-6231 tel/504.865.5789 fax 504.862.8721 www.tulane.edu/~telc

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6. Any documents relating to analysis or consideration of the environmental impact of the decommissioning efforts or any report or document concerning the environmental impact of the efforts.
7. Any documents relating to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or any other agency's involvement in the decommission efforts.
8. Any documents relating to EPA's or any other agency's decision to charge Taylor with any fines, penalties, fees, or violations under the Clean Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or any other statute or regulation, due to any activity or occurrence at or near MC 20.
9. Any documents relating to any agreement, trust, or contract between EPA or any other agency and Taylor.
10. Any documents relating to any agreement, trust, or contract related to the decommissioning efforts of MC 20 between EPA or any other agency and BP; BP America; BP Exploration & Oil, Inc.; BP Exploration & Production, Inc.; or any other entity that is related to the decommissioning efforts.
11. Any documents relating to the deadline for completion of the performance of the decommissioning efforts, any documents detailing the satisfaction or failure to satisfy any deadlines, any requests from Taylor for extension of deadlines, and any responses to any requests for deadline extensions.

We respectfully request that all records be furnished without charge because "disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 522(a)(4)(A)(iii). The government's involvement with Taylor's decommissioning efforts affects all citizens residing on the Gulf Coast, which includes members of the Waterkeepers, and will contribute significantly to a better public understanding of how leaking and abandoned oil wells are decommissioned. The Waterkeepers have no intention of furthering commercial, trade, or profit interest with this information. The intended use or purpose of this information is to contribute to the public understanding of the governmental agencies involvement in the decommissioning of leaking and abandoned oil wells.

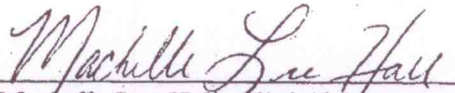
We are aware of and do not waive our rights under law: to receive a response to this request within twenty days, to be informed of the basis for any denial of this request, to appeal any denial, and to receive copies of excepted information from a document where other sections have been declared exempt from this request. If you intend to deny access to any records, we request a written explanation for the denial. If any records are deemed exempt from disclosure based on a claim of privilege or confidentiality, please provide the titles of the documents for which the privilege or confidentiality is claimed and an explanation of the claim.

FOIA Request
December 5, 2011
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If for any reason our request cannot be handled free of charge we request immediate written notification of the reasons behind the denial and an estimate of the cost that will be involved prior to any copying or reproduction of documents or other materials.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact us by e-mail or telephone.

Sincerely,



Magnelle Lee Hall, Clinical Instructor, SBN: 31498
Kevin Blodgett, Student Attorney
Jonathan Cardosi, Student Attorney
Paul Riermaier, Student Attorney
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Waterkeeper Alliance*
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